THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) No allocation has been made for construction of general pool quarters during the current year in these districts.

(b) Nil in general pool.

Declaration of Almora and Pithoragarh Districts as no-industry Districts

3395. SHRI JEEWAN SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to declare Almora and Pithoragarh districts as 'no-industry-districts' in view of the scarcity of industry there; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): (a) and (b). Almora and Pithoragarh Districts are already included in Category 'A' of Centrally declared Industrially backward areas.

Price of Wheat

3396. SHRI JEEWAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether as a result of the hoarding of wheat by the farmers in States of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh etc., the prices of wheat have gone up drastically in the open market;

(b) if so, how does the wheat price in the open market compare with the rates in the preceding three years;

(c) how does the Government propose to deal with the situation to bring down the price of wheat prevailing in the open market in the later half of 1991;

(d) whether there is any proposal to import wheat to bring down the prices, and

(e) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) (a) and (b). A statement indicating the index numbers of wholesale prices of wheat during the years 1988 to 1991 is attached (Annexure).

(c) The following steps have been taken by Government to check the rise in prices of wheat:-

(i) Allocations of wheat from Central Pool have been increased for Punjab and Haryana from October, 1991 so that the pressure on open market is reduced.

(ii) Food Corporation of India has been authorised to sell in the open market 3 lakh tonnes of wheat during October - November,1991. A further quantity of 3 lakh tonnes of wheat has also been authorised for sale in December, 1991.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) The present stocks of wheat are considered to be sufficient to meet the reasonable requirements of the Public Distribution System.